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NEWS RELEASE

El Paso Selected as Finalist for National Recognition

Community health efforts recognized as City advances in prize selection process

El Paso, TX—El Paso has been chosen as a finalist for the third annual Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) Culture of Health Prize. As a finalist, El Paso is one step further to receiving this recognition which honors communities for their efforts toward building a “culture of health” for all residents. Selected from more than 340 communities across the country, El Paso joins 14 other finalist. Winners will be announced this fall.

“We are thrilled to have advanced as a RWJF Culture of Health Prize finalist. For all of us, this means being able to take our El Paso-style culture of health to the next level by sharing our experiences, challenges, and lessons learned while we celebrate our successes,” said Robert Resendes, Public Health Director. “El Paso has a shared vision for health that is grounded in health equity, and defined by our diversity and our ability to collaborate across sectors to make our community a healthier place to live, love, learn, work, and play.”

To earn Prize finalist status, El Paso had to demonstrate how its efforts to improve health outcomes for residents reflect the six RWJF Culture of Health Prize criteria, which include:

- Defining health in the broadest possible terms.
- Committing to sustainable systems changes and policy-oriented long-term solutions.
- Cultivating a shared and deeply-held belief in the importance of equal opportunity for health.
- Harnessing the collective power of leaders, partners, and community members.
- Securing and making the most of available resources.
- Measuring and sharing progress and results.

“The RWJF Culture of Health Prize finalists are transforming their communities to make them healthier places to raise a family, provide jobs, and educate their children,” said Risa Lavizzo-Mourey, RWJF president and CEO. “These inspiring finalists are one step closer to being named 2015 Prize winners this fall.”

The RWJF Culture of Health Prize is one pillar of the *County Health Rankings & Roadmaps* program, a collaboration between the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute. The *Rankings* show communities where they can improve; the *Roadmaps* show communities how to take action to expand opportunities for healthier choices, and the prize honors communities that represent solutions-driven leadership at its finest. Together, these pillars serve as a platform for the Foundation’s vision to build a Culture of Health, now and for generations to come. Find out more at www.rwjf.org and www.countyhealthrankings.org

Being named a Prize finalist is affirmation that the Department of Public Health is supporting the City of El Paso’s strategic goal to nurture and promote a healthy, sustainable community. For more information on the programs and services offered by the Department of Public Health, visit www.EPHealth.com or dial 2-1-1.

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